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Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN 7 PERCENT

HARRISBURG --- Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during April 2000 totaled 89.9 million pounds, down 7 percent from April 1999, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

Beef production, at 98.9 million pounds live weight, was down 3 percent from April 1999. Total head slaughtered was 78,600 down 3.4 percent; and live weight averaged 1,259 pounds, an increase of 6 pounds. Veal production was 4.5 million pounds live weight, down 12 percent. Calf slaughter of 11,700 head was down 21 percent, and average live weight increased 41 pounds to 383 pounds.

Pork production was 43.6 million pounds live weight, down 13 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 179,100, down 12.5 percent, and live weight was 243 pounds, 1 pound below a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production was 681,000 pounds live weight, up 2 percent. The number slaughtered was 8,000, up 5 percent, and average live weight declined 3 lbs to 85 pounds.

Nationally, commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in April 2000 totaled 3.46 billion pounds, down 9 percent from the 3.82 billion pounds produced in April 1999.

Beef production, dressed weight basis, at 2.03 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Veal production, at 17.0 million pounds, was 6 percent below the previous record low for April set a year ago.

Pork production, at 1.39 billion pounds, was down 14 percent from the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production, at 23.0 million pounds, was up 12 percent from a year earlier.